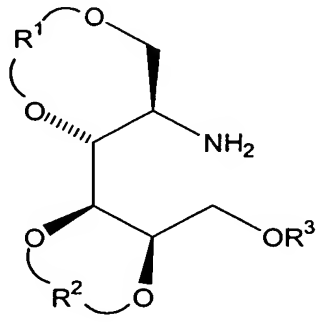
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof:



(I)

where R^1 and R^2 are each independently protecting groups which, together with the oxygen atoms to which they are attached, form part of a dioxane or dioxolane ring; and R^3 is hydrogen or a protecting group;

including the steps of:

(a) protecting the hydroxyl group at the C-6 position of *N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine, to give a 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine, wherein the hydroxyl protecting group at the C-6 position is selected from the group consisting of a silyl group, a benzyl group, or an ester group;

(b) reducing the C-1 anomeric carbon atom of the 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine using a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of a metal hydride reducing agent or hydrogen gas/metal catalyst to give a 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannitol;

(c) protecting the four hydroxyl groups of the 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannitol with protecting groups R^1 and R^2 as defined above;

(d) removing the *N*-acetyl protecting group using basic conditions and optionally removing the C-6 oxygen atom protecting group using basic conditions to give the compound of formula (I).

2.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where 2,2-dimethoxypropane in the presence of acetone is used to protect the four hydroxyl groups of the 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannitol in step (c), to give a 1:3,4:5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-D-mannitol.

9. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where both the *N*-acetyl protecting group and the C-6 oxygen atom protecting group are removed in step (d).

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 further comprising:

(e) oxamoylation of the compound of formula (I) to give a 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannitol;

(f) removal of the R^3 protecting group using basic conditions, where R^3 is not H;

(g) oxidation of the C-6 carbon atom to give a 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose;

(h) double cyclisation of the 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose using a methanolic ammonia solution to give kifunensine with four protected hydroxyl groups; and

(i) removal of the four hydroxyl protecting groups using acidic conditions to give kifunensine.

12.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A process according to claim 11 where oxamic acid and 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole are used for the oxamoylation of the compound of formula (I) in step (e).

15. (Original) A process according to claim 11 where the oxamoylation step (e) is a direct coupling of the compound of formula (I) with ethyl oxamate, oxalic acid mono-n-butyl ester or di-n-butyl oxalate.

16. (Original) A process according to claim 11 where pyridinium dichromate in the presence of activated molecular sieves and pyridinium trifluoroacetate is used for the oxidation of the C-6 carbon atom in step (g).

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing kifunensine including the steps of:

(a) silylation of *N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine using *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl chloride as silylating agent, to give 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-acetylamino-D-mannose;

(b) reduction of 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-acetylamino-D-mannose using sodium borohydride as reducing agent, to give 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-acetylamino-D-mannitol;

(c) protection of the four hydroxy groups of 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-acetylamino-D-mannitol using 2,2-dimethoxypropane in the presence of acetone, to give 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-acetylamino-D-mannitol;

(d) double deprotection of the 6-*O*- and *N*-protecting groups of 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-acetylamino-D-mannitol using aqueous barium hydroxide, to give 2-amino-2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-D-mannitol;

(e) oxamoylation of 2-amino-2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-D-mannitol using oxamic acid and 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole, to give 2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-oxamoylamino-D-mannitol;

(f) oxidation of 2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-oxamoylamino-D-mannitol using pyridinium dichromate in the presence of activated molecular sieves and pyridinium trifluoroacetate, to give ~~5-deoxy-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose~~ 5-deoxy-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-5-oxamoylamino-D-mannose;

(g) double cyclisation of ~~5-deoxy-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose~~ 5-deoxy-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-5-oxamoylamino-D-mannose using a methanolic ammonia solution, to give 2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-kifunensine; and

(h) deprotection of ~~5,6:7,8-di-*O*-isopropylidene-kifunensine~~ 2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-kifunensine, using methanolic hydrochloric acid, to give kifunensine.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where the hydroxyl protecting group at the C-6 position of *N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine in step (a) is a silyl protecting group.

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to 19 where the silyl protecting group is *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl.

21. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where the basic conditions in step (d) are selected from aqueous barium hydroxide or sodium *n*-butoxide in *n*-butanol.

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 11 where the basic conditions in step (f) are selected from aqueous barium hydroxide or sodium *n*-butoxide in *n*-butanol.

23. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 11 where the acidic conditions in step (i) are selected from methanolic hydrochloric acid or trifluoroacetic acid.

24. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 further comprising:

(e) removal of the R^3 protecting group using basic conditions, where R^3 is not H;

(f) oxamoylation of the compound of formula (I) to give a 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannitol;

(g) oxidation of the C-6 carbon atom to give a 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose;

(h) double cyclisation of the 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose using a methanolic ammonia solution to give kifunensine with four protected hydroxyl groups; and

(i) removal of the four hydroxyl protecting groups using acidic conditions to give kifunensine.

25. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein R^3 is a silyl group or an ester group.

26. (New) A process according to claim 24, wherein R^3 is a silyl group or an ester group.